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DEPARTMENT OF
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TO: Hon. Joseph Nocca, Board of Ethics Chair

FROM: Dan Schorr; Inspector General *DS*

SUBJECT: City Council Majority Leader Patricia McDow and the Yonkers Parking Authority

DATE: January 31, 2011

The Department of Inspector General has completed a review regarding allegations that City Council Majority Leader Patricia McDow parked her personal vehicle, a 1984 BMW, at the Yonkers Parking Authority (YPA) Buena Vista Garage for at least three years without making the required payment and without proper New York State vehicle registration. We have concluded that Ms. McDow did not meet her obligation to pay throughout this time and the YPA improperly failed to bill her. Thus, we are referring this matter to the Board of Ethics for its consideration.

In the course of our investigation, we reviewed YPA and Parking Violations Bureau (PVB) records and interviewed numerous people, including Councilwoman McDow, YPA Chairman William Regan, YPA Deputy Executive Director Joseph Dalli, and former YPA Executive Director Michael Dalton.

During our review and after several discussions with the YPA, the YPA and Ms. McDow arranged to have the vehicle removed and Ms. McDow was billed for money owed for prior utilization of the garage. A payment plan was created and commenced, with full payment due by the end of 2011. We could not determine when the vehicle was first parked in the garage, as there were incomplete and inconsistent accounts among those interviewed. However, YPA records indicate that under former Executive Director Michael Dalton it gave Ms. McDow permission to park there without payment as early as October 2007. She is now being billed for use from October 2007 until the car was finally removed in December 2010.

After reviewing all the available facts and evidence, we conclude that the YPA should have required payment from the onset of parking and Ms. McDow should have paid for the use of the

garage. Ms. McDow states she was not aware that she had to pay for the use of the garage because of her status as a City official which affords her free parking at the Government Center Garage.

We have found no credible evidence of criminal wrongdoing. However, we conclude that it was improper for Ms. McDow to park her personal car at the YPA Buena Vista Garage without payment. It was similarly improper for the YPA administration not to charge Ms. McDow. Such behavior by Ms. McDow and the YPA possibly violates City of Yonkers Code of Ethics §C1A-6A, which states in part that a "City officer...shall not use his or her position or office, or take or fail to take any action, in a manner which he or she knows or has reason to know may result in a financial benefit...." Therefore, we are referring this matter to the Board of Ethics for its consideration.